

command of the relief expedition was entrusted to the Logothete Philip. The latter was apparently a eunuch high in office in the court, a Moslem by birth, but now a Christian at least in outward conformity. The new Admiral arrived at Bona before the Almohad forces had appeared and captured the city, with the aid of Arab tribesmen from the interior, apparently being resisted by the inhabitants themselves, who were averse to Christian rule. Philip behaved as George would have done, proclaimed the peace, and installed an *dmil* who may have been the expelled governor (autumn of 1153). But though he collected much booty, he seems to have gone further than his predecessor in allowing the chief citizens to evacuate the city with their families and all their property. He then returned by Al Mahdia in triumph to Sicily. His reward, however, was far other than one would have expected from the King, and his trial and punishment remain the most puzzling incident of the reign. The story is told most fully, and with full Christian bias, by Romuald of Salerno. The latter describes Philip as an eunuch whom the King's favour had raised to be *Magister* over

all the royal household, and finally to
be Admiral
of the fleet which took Bona. The
downfall of
the favourite is, however, attributed
not to his
doings at the latter place, but to
charges against
his orthodoxy. He was in heart and
mind a
Saracen and was in the habit of visiting
the syna-
gogues (mosques?), and sending
offerings to the